

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

BARONIUS PRESS LTD,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

FAITHLIFE CORPORATION et al.,

Defendant(s).

CASE NO.
2:22-cv-01635-TL

ORDER REGARDING INITIAL
DISCLOSURES, JOINT STATUS
REPORT, AND EARLY
SETTLEMENT

I. INITIAL SCHEDULING DATES

The Court SETS the following dates for the initial disclosure and submission of the Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan:

Deadline for FRCP 26(f) Conference: 3/7/2023

Initial Disclosures Pursuant to FRCP 26(a)(1): 3/21/2023

Combined Joint Status Report and Discovery
Plan as Required by FRCP 26(f)
and Local Civil Rule 26(f): 4/4/2023

Any request for an extension of the deadlines above must comply with the procedures set forth in this Court's Standing Order for All Civil Cases. *See* https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/sites/wawd/files/LinStandingOrderreCivilCases_0.pdf.

Plaintiffs and any Defendants who have appeared shall meet and confer before contacting the Court to request an extension and include a certification as to this requirement with any opposed motion.

If this case involves claims that are exempt from the requirements of Federal

Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP") 26(a) and 26(f), please notify Kadya Peter, Courtroom Deputy, at kadya_peter@wawd.uscourts.gov to be provided with a revised order regarding the joint status report.

II. PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

All counsel and parties are encouraged to advise the Court of their pronouns and honorifics (such as Ms., Mx., or Mr.) and may do so in signature lines or by advising the Courtroom Deputy before a hearing begins, either via email or in person.

The Court has a strong commitment to fostering the development of new and diverse lawyers in the legal community. Consequently, the Court strongly encourages litigants to provide opportunities for less experienced lawyers or lawyers whose identities and/or backgrounds further the diversity of the legal profession to conduct hearings before the Court, particularly where they contributed significantly to the underlying motion or prepared the witness. While typically only one lawyer may argue on behalf of a party at a hearing, the Court may allow multiple attorneys to argue on behalf of a client to achieve this end. Counsel should advise the Court prior to the hearing if they intend to have multiple lawyers argue a case pursuant to the Court's commitment to diversity. Of course, the ultimate decision of who speaks on behalf of the client is for the client and not the Court.

All counsel and *pro se* parties shall review the Local Rules, Electronic Filing Procedures for Civil and Criminal Cases, court forms, instruction sheets, and General Orders, which can be found on the Court's website at www.wawd.uscourts.gov.

In addition, all counsel and *pro se* parties shall review Judge Lin's Chambers Procedures at <https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/judges/lin-procedures>.

Counsel and *pro se* parties are expected to abide by the requirements set forth in the Local Rules and General Orders as well as Judge Lin's Chambers Procedures. Failure to do so may result in the imposition of sanctions.

III. JOINT STATUS REPORT & DISCOVERY PLAN

As noted above, all counsel and any *pro se* parties are directed to confer and provide the Court with a combined Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan (the "Report") by April 4, 2023. This conference shall be by direct and personal communication, whether that be an in-person or virtual face-to-face meeting or a telephonic conference. The Report will be used to set a schedule for the prompt resolution of the case. It must contain the following information by corresponding paragraph numbers:

1. A statement of the nature and complexity of the case.
2. The parties have the right to consent to assignment of this case to a full time United States Magistrate Judge, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Local Magistrate Judge Rule 13 to conduct all proceedings. The Western District of Washington assigns a wide range of cases to Magistrate Judges. The Magistrate Judges of this District thus have significant experience in all types of civil matters filed in our court. Additional information about our district's Magistrate Judges can be found at www.wawd.uscourts.gov. The parties should indicate whether they agree that the Honorable Brian A. Tsuchida may conduct all proceedings in this case, including trial and the entry of judgment. When responding to this question, the parties should only respond "yes" or "no." A "yes" response should be indicated only if all parties consent. Otherwise, a "no" response should be provided. Individual party responses should not be provided.

3. A proposed deadline for joining additional parties.

4. For class action cases only: A proposed deadline for the filing of the Motion for Class Certification. If the deadline proposed by the parties is not within the period set forth in Local Civil Rule 23(i)(3), the parties shall provide good cause for an extension. The parties shall propose an agreed-upon briefing schedule for the class

1 certification motion. Non–class action cases shall simply state "N/A."

2 5. A discovery plan that states, by corresponding paragraph letters (A, B, etc.),
3 the parties' views and proposals on all items set forth in FRCP 26(f)(3), which includes
4 the following topics:

5 (A) initial disclosures;

6 (B) subjects, timing, and potential phasing of discovery;

7 (C) any issues about discovery or electronically stored information;

8 (D) privilege issues;

9 (E) changes to discovery limitations imposed under the Federal and Local

10 Civil Rules or other proposed limitations on discovery; and

11 (F) the need for any discovery–related orders.

12 6. The parties' views, proposals, and agreements, by corresponding paragraph
13 letters (A, B, etc.), on all items set forth in Local Civil Rule 26(f)(1), which includes
14 the following topics:

15 (A) prompt case resolution;

16 (B) alternative dispute resolution;

17 (C) related cases;

18 (D) discovery management;

19 (E) anticipated discovery sought;

20 (F) phasing motions;

21 (G) preservation of discoverable information;

22 (H) privilege issues;

23 (I) Model Protocol for Discovery of ESI; and

24 (J) alternatives to the Model Protocol.

25 7. The date by which discovery will be completed.

26 8. Whether the case should be bifurcated, *e.g.*, by trying the liability issues before

1 the damages issues, or bifurcated in any other way.

2 9. Whether the pretrial statements and pretrial order called for by Local Civil
3 Rules 16(e), (h), (i), and (k) and 16.1 should be dispensed with in whole or in part for
4 economy.

5 10. Whether the parties intend to utilize the Individualized Trial Program set forth
6 in Local Civil Rule 39.2.

7 11. Whether the parties intend to utilize any Alternative Dispute Resolution
8 ("ADR") options set forth in Local Civil Rule 39.1.

9 12. Any other suggestions for shortening or simplifying the case.

10 13. The date the case will be ready for trial. The Court expects that most civil
11 cases will be ready for trial within a year after filing the Joint Status Report and
12 Discovery Plan. If the parties will be proposing a trial date for more than fourteen months
13 from the date of the filing of the Joint Status Report, the parties shall include in this
14 section of the report an explanation as to why the additional time is required.

15 14. Whether the trial will be a jury or non-jury trial.

16 15. The number of trial days required.

17 16. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all trial counsel.

18 17. The dates on which the trial counsel may have conflicts or other
19 complications to be considered in setting a trial date.

20 18. If, on the due date of the Report, all Defendant(s) or respondents(s) have not
21 been served, counsel for Plaintiff(s) shall advise the Court when service will be
22 effected, why it was not made earlier, and shall provide a proposed schedule for the
23 required FRCP 26(f) conference and FRCP 26(a) initial disclosures.

24 19. Whether any party wishes to have a scheduling conference in advance of the
25 Court's entry of a scheduling order in the case.

26 20. List the date(s) that each and every nongovernmental corporate party filed

its disclosure statement pursuant to FRCP 7.1 and Local Civil Rule 7.1.

21. A certification that all counsel and any *pro se* parties have reviewed Judge Lin's Chambers Procedures, the Local Rules, General Orders, and the applicable Electronic Filing Procedures.

22. A certification that all counsel and any *pro se* parties have reviewed and complied with Judge Lin's Standing Order Regarding 28 U.S.C. § 455 and Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges.

If the parties are unable to agree on any part of the Report, they may answer in separate paragraphs. No separate reports are to be filed. If the parties wish to have a status conference with the Court at any time during the pendency of this action, they should notify Kadya Peter, Courtroom Deputy, at kadya_peter@wawd.uscourts.gov.

IV. PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSIBILITY

This Order is issued at the outset of the case, and a copy is sent by the clerk to counsel for Plaintiff (or to Plaintiff, if *pro se*) and any Defendants who have appeared. Plaintiff's counsel (or Plaintiff, if *pro se*) is directed to serve copies of this Order on all parties who appear after this Order is filed. Such service shall be accomplished within ten (10) days after each appearance. Plaintiff's counsel (or Plaintiff, if *pro se*) will be responsible for starting the communications needed to comply with this Order.

V. EARLY SETTLEMENT CONSIDERATION & NOTIFICATION

When civil cases are settled early – before becoming costly and time consuming – all parties and the Court benefit. The Federal Bar Association Alternative Dispute Resolution Task Force Report for this District has stated:

[T]he major ADR-related problem is not the percentage of civil cases that ultimately settle, since statistics demonstrate that approximately 95% of all cases are resolved without trial. However, the timing of settlement is a major concern. Frequently, under our existing ADR system, case resolution occurs far too late, after the parties have completed discovery and incurred substantial expenditure of fees and costs.

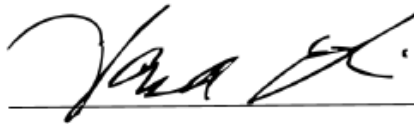
1 The judges of this District have adopted a resolution "approving the Task Force's
2 recommendation that court-connected ADR services be provided as early, effectively,
3 and economically as possible in every suitable case." The steps required by this Order are
4 meant to help achieve that goal while preserving the rights of all parties.

5 If settlement is achieved, counsel shall immediately notify Kadya Peter, Courtroom
6 Deputy, at kadya_peter@wawd.uscourts.gov.

7 VI. SANCTIONS

8 The parties are responsible for complying with the terms of this Order. The Court
9 may impose sanctions on any party who fails to comply fully with this Order.

10 Dated the 7th of February 2023.

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13 Tana Lin
14 United States District Judge
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